

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES**  
**FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER**  
**May 11, 2009**

<b>DOA MEMBERS</b>	<b>DOA STAFF</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>	<b>GUESTS</b>
William P. Allen, PhD	Susan M Ramsburg Recording Sec	Alan Imhoff, Alderman	Suzan M. Adams	Dawn Day- Morales, DoA
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Carolyn True	Margaret Nusbaum	Robert Wannemacher	
Rae Ann Butler				
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair				
Lloyd Hoover				
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Virginia Skelley				
Belinda Teague-Levy, Executive Assistant				

- I. **Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees.
- III. **Approval of Minutes –** - The minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting were approved. All were in favor. There was a correction to the agenda. The meeting for next month will be June 8<sup>th</sup> instead of June 11<sup>th</sup>.

- IV. Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner David Gray was not able to attend the meeting today.

**Alderman's Report** – Alderman Imhoff was not able to attend the meeting today.

- V. Reports on Senior Center Visits, All** – Members reported on visits to Emmitsburg and Urbana Senior Centers. There was also a report on a visit to Victoria Park in Walkersville. Members are encouraged to keep attending the centers to identify senior concerns and/or issues. The effectiveness of the senior center should not be a priority, but issues that are actually of concern to the local seniors. Members are urged to advocate for the forum to be held this October during these visits.

**MOW 501 (c)(3) Update, Louise Lynch** – Louise reported that the by-laws for this committee have been completed. A final draft is ready to go to the county attorney's office for review and recommendations. Subcommittees are being developed and work will soon start on a strategic plan and a business plan.

**Nominating Committee Report, Earl Beck** – The three candidates being recommended to the BoCC for membership on this Commission are Stephen Wilhide, Millard Haines, and Cristina Donahue-Taylor. A motion was put forth by Rae Ann Butler to accept the recommendation of the three candidates and seconded by Burt Shawver

**Coalition Update, Virginia Skelley** – Virginia reported that only twenty-five percent of the bills the USM supported were passed. Money was not always the deciding factor when bills were denied. USM routinely sends emails requesting support for various legislative issues. Virginia, as the CoA representative, will give response to these emails as most require a quick reply. Handouts including the May USM newsletter and *A Summary of USM's Actions and Bills in the 2009 Legislative Session* were distributed. Belinda suggested that legislation be presented to the BoCC to garner their support on issues that the USM is pursuing. Relevant emails can also be forwarded to Commissioner Gray for his input.

**Forum Update, Hal Ehart** – Hal reported that he has received one response letter from the letters which were sent out at the end of March. He will contact some of the agencies as follow up to the letter and to generate interest in the upcoming forum

- VI. Presentation on Home and Community Based Waiver for Older Adults, Dawn Morales** – Dawn presented an overview of the Medicaid Waiver program and the criteria necessary to be put on the waiver list.

This program allows seniors to stay in their home or an assisted living and receive Medicaid money for services. Otherwise a senior would need to be in a long term care facility to be eligible for these funds. There are limitations on income and assets in order to qualify. The income restriction fluctuates yearly. There are also medical necessity qualifications. A plan of care cost is developed based on a year's worth of needs. The plan must be cost neutral which means the care cannot cost more than the cost of a care plan provided at a long term care facility. The waiver plan is funded by state and federal money. As of April 30<sup>th</sup> there are no funds available for new participants. There is an Older Adults Registry of names that are waiting for an open position in the program. Current participants are reviewed yearly to determine whether they still meet financial and/or medical program requirements. If someone is no longer financially or medically eligible for the program, they come out of the program and this allows funds to be used for someone from the registry. The current wait once on the registry is 30 months. Frederick County has 28 people on the Waiver program. There are 167 people in Frederick County on the registry. This is a well run program that helps many seniors in the state stay in their home safely.

**VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True–** The DoA has been awarded a \$37,000 one time allocation as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The DoA has recognized several ways to utilize this grant money. The money must be used by September 30, 2010. Some possible options are: a 6 month pilot program for a breakfast club, shelf stable meals for emergency preparedness for seniors, and providing meals for seniors at the Elder Expo. One idea is to use some funds for the Farmer's Markets coupons, but the proposal may not meet the criteria set forth by the state.

There is a proposed change to the schedule for three of our senior centers. Carolyn will go before the BoCC on May 14<sup>th</sup> for a final decision. The Brunswick center and Emmitsburg center would be closed 2 days a week and Urbana would be closed every other Friday. Staff from the closed centers would work in other DoA areas where needs have developed. The mayors in Emmitsburg and Brunswick have concerns about the centers being closed.

There is not a clear resolution with Thurmont Memorandum of Understanding at this time.

A letter was sent out to 112 property owners who have owned their house for 25+ years and were delinquent in the 2008 property tax bills. We received inquiries from 24 residents who received these letters.

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We were able to provide some assistance to homeowners which may have included completing the property tax credit form.

The BoCC accepted our 3% reduction proposal for the fiscal 2010 budget. This includes the two frozen positions for a total of \$68,000 budget reduction. These have been removed for our budget and are no longer available to us.

**VIII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,  
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

**June 8, 2009 – Commission on Aging Meeting at 1:00 pm, Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702..**

**June 30, 2009 – COA Executive Meeting, 1:00 pm at the Frederick Senior Center.**

**Elected Official Forum – Tuesday, October 13, 2009, 1pm**